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SUPERSONIC MODEL IN NASA LANGLEY'S 30- by 60-FOOT TUNNEL

This model is an early design for a supersonic transport plane. Although the plane was designed to travel at high speeds, the model was tested for low speed characteristics in NASA Langley Research Center's 30- by 60-Foot Tunnel in the mid 1970s. The variety of craft tested in the tunnel ranged from full-scale early aircraft to submarines to spacecraft.

Built to test full-scale models or actual aircraft, the 30- by 60-Foot Tunnel was an innovative concept in wind tunnel design. It proved especially valuable during World War II as a majority of the nation's bombers and fighters (as well as several foreign aircraft) were tested in this tunnel. Since the 1970s, one of the unique test techniques used in the "30- by 60" was free-flight of dynamically scaled models in the test section. This technique allowed researchers to measure and assess flight characteristics as well as control options. The "30- by 60" is an example of a major facility adapted to serve a multitude of uses not originally visualized.

The "30 by 60" remained as one of NASA's largest wind tunnels until its closing in September 1995. In 1985 the 30-by 60-Foot Tunnel was designated a National Historic Landmark.

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